UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Thursday, August 14, 2025

The Split

From the Stanford Daily: *Stanford will continue considering legacy status while no longer being test-optional for the fall 2026 admissions cycle, according to the University's newly released admissions criteria. The move comes after Assembly Bill 1780, which will prohibit universities benefiting from state-funded financial assistance from "providing a legacy preference or donor preference in admissions… to an applicant." To comply with the new bill, Stanford will withdraw from the Cal Grant, a state-sponsored fund that supports Californian students in financial need. The University will be "replacing state-funded student financial aid with university funding, keeping our students' financial support whole," wrote Brad Howard, associate vice president of University communications, in an email to the Daily.*

...Stanford's renewed test requirements mean that applicants will have to submit either SAT or ACT scores, although the admissions office clarified that there is "no minimum GPA or test score." ...

Full story at https://stanforddaily.com/2025/08/06/stanford-to-continue-legacy-admissions-reinstate-standardized-test-requirements/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, legislature, politics, Stanford, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 70 (Addendum to #59)

From KCCI: *A second University of Iowa employee is on paid administrative leave following an online video that appears to show the employee discussing recent diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) laws and ways faculty members can get around the laws. A video posted to conservative news site Townhall appears to show a University of Iowa employee — identified in the story as Cory Lockwood, the senior associate director of the Iowa Memorial Union — talking about how the university has complied with recent DEI laws enacted by the state legislature. "There's DEI work happening," he appears to say in the video. "I think, you know, somebody's not going to have that in their job description because of the statehouse."*

The University of Iowa confirmed Lockwood is on paid administrative leave... Lockwood is at least the second University of Iowa employee to be placed on paid administrative leave after a video surfaced in which they discussed enforcement of Iowa's DEI laws...

Full story at https://www.kcci.com/article/university-of-iowa-employees-dei-video-paid-leave-cory-lockwood/65578816.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of Iowa

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions

Remaking the University

- The coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the University of California and the Californian economy - 8/26/2025
- Liner Note 37. Chicago's Gift to Trump - 8/24/2025
- Liner Note 36. UCLA in the Extortion Machine - 8/10/2025

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Stalk

A new problem for college sports is developing, particularly now that athletes' are promoted through their Name-Image-Likeness (NIL). From the NY Times:

On Valentine's Day 2023, Latyr Thiaw, a 19-year-old maintenance worker living in Washington, D.C., saw a picture of UCLA women's basketball player Kiki Rice on Instagram. He then watched interviews with her on YouTube and felt something "magnetic" between them. She reminded him of a character from "Avatar: The Last Airbender." In the months that followed, Thiaw sent Rice dozens of unanswered messages on social media, and he changed the background screen on his phone to a picture of her. Then, in mid-December 2023, Thiaw flew to Los Angeles, rented a U-Haul van, parking near the UCLA campus for days and sleeping in the back.

On several occasions, Thiaw stood outside of UCLA's practice facility waiting for Rice. Once, he sat on a bench for hours alongside a glass vase of white and red roses and a handwritten card that read, "Kiki Carroll Rice once upon a time you caught my sight through a life full of strife… you got me through the night…I want do something kosmik with you that will be enough till the end of time."

On Dec. 21, as Rice warmed up for the UCLA/Hawaii game in Pauley Pavilion, she felt eyes on her. It was Thiaw — in the second row, standing up, wearing a suit, and staring intently at her. Soon after, UCLA banned Thiaw from all its facilities and events, and the athletic department posted a flyer with a photograph of Thiaw that read, "Please do not engage with this individual or allow entry into any athletic facility." Despite the ban, Thiaw attempted to attend another UCLA game by entering through the student-only section and, according to a police report, he pushed past security in an attempt to make contact with Rice. He was arrested and charged in Los Angeles Superior Court with stalking and two counts of resisting a police officer. He pleaded not guilty to those three charges, but his behavior continued.

"I do not know Latyr, I do not have any relationship with him, and his incessant efforts to track me down and confront me cause me to worry for my safety and are deeply disturbing," Rice stated in her request for a restraining order in January 2024. "I have no protection when I am off campus or at away games." ...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6543019/2025/08/12/athlete-stalking-cases-wnba-tennis-nfl-college-sports/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

In Name Only

From the Daily Bruin: *The Trump administration must restore over a third of the research grants it froze from UCLA, a federal judge ordered Tuesday. Rita F. Lin, a California district court judge, issued a preliminary injunction in June in response to a lawsuit filed by UC researchers which contested the legality of the National Science Foundation cutting 114 UC research grants on the basis of alleged diversity, equity and inclusion violations. Lin ordered the federal government to explain in a hearing Tuesday why its move to freeze around 300 NSF grants at UCLA did not violate the injunction. Lin said in the Tuesday order, which was issued following the hearing, that the suspensions "differ from a termination* ***in name only****" – and therefore violate her June order which blocked the NSF from terminating more of the UC's grants...*

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2025/08/12/judge-orders-trump-administration-to-restore-some-of-uclas-frozen-research-grants.

Although the article doesn't say so, based on past actions, the administration is likely to appeal.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:31 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UCLA

The Elephants Are in the Room Where It (May) Happen

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

UCLA does not seem to be in the room:

From the LA Times: *As Gov. Gavin Newsom and the University of California consider whether to sue the Trump administration to restore more than half a billion dollars in federal grants to UCLA, the White House on Tuesday had a terse response. "Bring it on, Gavin," said White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt when asked about Newsom's opposition to a Trump plan demanding more than $1 billion and sweeping campus changes at UCLA to resolve federal antisemitism findings against the university...*

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-08-12/trump-white-house-newsom-ucla-grant-freezes-lawsuit-threat.

Clearly, this matter has now escalated way above the campus level. It is tangled up with the governor's current campaign against such things as President Trump's Texas redistricting scheme, his call for opening the Epstein files, etc.

And, as we have noted before, the PR campaign supporting UCLA is being run out of UCOP:

https://ia902901.us.archive.org/7/items/newsom-7-2-2025-arrests-of-immigrants/Stand%20Up%20for%20UC%208-11-2025.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, governor, politics, UCLA, UCOP

Straws in the Wind - Part 69

From CNY Central: *Syracuse University will close the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to form a new unit focused on "people and culture." In March, University leaders announced their intention to review how we they can continue to advance Syracuse University's commitment to being a campus that is welcoming to all, while ensuring full compliance with federal law, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. According to the university, Vice President Mary Grace Almandrez and her team led a comprehensive review of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's mission, structure and programs over the last several months. The university said the process included engaging with more than 300 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents and families. Based on the findings, the office will join the Office of Human Resources to focus on the new "People and Culture" unit.*

A statement from Syracuse University says the new team will work closely with campus partners, including Human Resources and Academic Affairs, to advance strategic priorities in support of faculty and staff development and employee retention. The unit will also focus on employee engagement, professional development and strengthening community-building...

Full story at https://cnycentral.com/news/local/syracuse-university-to-replace-diversity-office-with-people-and-culture-unit-dei-campus-inclusion.

From the Lexington Herald-Leader: *The University of Kentucky is closing an office created last year after it eliminated its Office for Institutional Diversity, President Eli Capilouto said. The Office of Community Relations was created in August 2024 when the university dissolved the Office for Institutional Diversity in the wake of bills targeting diversity, equity and inclusion on college campuses. Though no bills banning DEI were passed in 2024, House Bill 4 was passed in the 2025 legislative session, requiring all public universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to dismantle and defund all DEI initiatives...*

Full story at https://amp.kentucky.com/news/local/education/article311576994.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Syracuse U, U of Kentucky

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 47

From the NY Times: *...The two sides have been working to resolve their differences in recent weeks, but a court motion filed by the government on Friday in a dispute over international students suggested there is still deep acrimony. The motion accuses Harvard of failure to*

control crime, and claims that Harvard's leadership has "shown itself to be incapable of properly hosting, monitoring, disciplining, and reporting on its foreign students."

...In the court case involving Harvard, the Justice Department was asking a judge to throw out one of two pending lawsuits filed by Harvard against the administration, this one involving the right of the nation's oldest university to host international students.

...[Last] Friday, the government moved to dismiss the lawsuit entirely... The government's effort could have disrupted the lives of about 5,000 international students attending Harvard last spring, another 2,000 recent graduates, as well as a new cohort of students who plan to arrive this fall... In its filing Friday, the administration denied that contention. Instead, it listed a number of accusations it has made in previous filings and statements about the school, including that violent crime has increased on campus.

...Harvard pointed to reporting showing its campus has very low-crime overall. The university's student newspaper, the Harvard Crimson, has reported that the campus police responded to nearly twice as many crimes on campus in 2023 as in 2021, mostly over reports of stolen electric bikes and scooters. There was no evidence that international students were involved in the crimes...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/08/us/trump-harvard-patent-investigation-international-students.html.

Also from the NY Times: *Harvard University and the Trump administration are nearing a potentially landmark legal settlement that would see Harvard agree to spend $500 million in exchange for the restoration of billions of dollars in federal research funding, according to four people familiar with the deliberations. Negotiators for the White House and the university have made significant progress in their closed-door discussions over the past week, developing a framework for a settlement to end their monthslong battle.*

But under the framework coming together, Harvard would agree to spend $500 million on vocational and educational programs and research, three of the people said. That figure, currently penciled in to be paid out over years, would meet a demand from President Trump that Harvard spend more than double what Columbia University agreed last month to pay. It would also satisfy Harvard's wish that it not pay the government directly, as Columbia is doing. Harvard would also make commitments to continue its efforts to combat antisemitism on campus, two of the people said.

In return, Harvard — one of the largest recipients in higher education of federal research money — would see its research funding restored and avoid the appointment of a monitor, a condition the school has demanded as a way to preserve its academic independence...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/11/us/trump-harvard-settlement-negotiations.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, diversity, enrollment, Harvard, politics

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